

and Higher Education Planning Committees. After serving ten years in the State House, Norma continued her service to Colorado when she was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1998. As a State Senator, Norma currently leads her party as the Senate Majority Leader. She serves on the Finance and Legislative Audit Committees and is the former chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee. Norma's major accomplishments include such important laws as the School Finance Act of 1994, the Third Grade Literacy Act and the creation of the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Norma is a dedicated legislator whose leadership has been awarded with the honor of being the first woman to hold the position of Majority Leader in both the state House and state Senate. Over the course of her tenure she has been the recipient of more than sixty-five recognitions and awards including the Denver Women's Commission, the Colorado Women's Chamber Senator of the Year, and the Colorado School of Mines Medal. In addition to her service to the General Assembly, Norma is also a member of the Great Outdoors Colorado Board, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education, the American Cancer Society and several other community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Norma Anderson has ceaselessly dedicated her time and efforts to serving her country and the people of Colorado as a Colorado State Senator. I am honored to bring her hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Norma and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARYLAND COALITION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, one of the major goals of our education system is to produce knowledgeable and informed citizens. We accomplish this, in part, through effective civic education programs in our schools—like the innovative We The People program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education.

The first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held in September 2003. The event was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by our four distinguished congressional leaders: Senator FRIST, Senator DASCHLE, Speaker HASTERT and Leader PELOSI. One of the very positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that returned home with the mission to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools and make available programs like We the People in each of our fifty states.

In that regard, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, the facilitator of the Maryland delegation, for her leadership in designing an action plan to improve civic education in our state. As a result of her efforts, the Maryland Coalition for

Civic Education, representing over 40 community leaders and organizations, has been formed; a tool kit of best practices in civic education has been developed; and Maryland's teachers will soon have access to further professional development in the area of civic education.

Moreover, I'm proud to note that these exciting developments come on top of Maryland's substantial existing commitments in the area of civic education—including our Student Service Learning requirement, our mandatory Government Civics course and our nearly finished state curriculum, which will include the teaching of civics and government from pre-K through high school.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Dr. Taylor-Thoma and the rest of her colleagues again for all of their hard work, and I look forward to the success of the Maryland Coalition for Civic Education as they participate in the second annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PV2 JUSTIN RAY YOEMANS, A MODEL OF VALOR IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army PV2 Justin Ray Yoemans of Eufaula, Alabama, who lost his life November 6 while defending our nation.

Private Yoemans was manning his gun position when his Humvee encountered a roadside bomb during a street patrol of Baghdad, Iraq. According to military accounts, Private Yoemans gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. His was posthumously awarded a total of five military medals, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Private Yoemans, who was assigned to the Fourth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country at the age of 20. His family and friends describe him as a loving son and a patriot who was proud to serve in the military.

I cannot express the proper words to console his family at the loss of their beloved son. However, I do wish to convey that America shares in your grief as we struggle together to protect our homeland from terrorism.

Private Yoemans loved life and was described by his younger sister as "a little boy inside a great man." America is fortunate to have such "great men" standing up for the cause of freedom. His valor and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE F. AIKEN

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend my warmest thanks and my most sincere best wishes to Mr. Steve F. Aiken who is retiring after 35 years of faithful service to

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District.

Currently serving as Chief of the Programs Management Branch, Steve has had a distinguished career with the Corps of Engineers. A recipient of the Sustained Superior Performance Award and the Exceptional Performance Award several times, Steve has also received the District Humanitarian Award, the South Atlantic Division Program Management Chief of the Year award, and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. Clearly, his record has been one of stellar performance and superb leadership. In addition, both my staff in Washington and in the Wilmington area have immensely enjoyed working with Steve and benefiting from his professional advice on some many key projects in our area. Each of them joins me in thanking you for being so accessible and informed. As the father of an Eagle Scout, I am also very grateful for his dedication and service to the Boy Scouts of America.

When I think of Steve's commitment to the public good, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" come to mind. Steve's positive spirit has always been to do the task at hand—a spirit that inspires others to achieve. Steve's sacrifice in time and commitment has been to make southeastern North Carolina a better place to live and work—a sacrifice that meant doing the right thing and not being concerned with who gets the credit.

Pearl S. Buck once said, "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and free mind." There is no question that his years of service have been the epitome of this statement. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As he enters this next stage of life, I am confident that his talents and energy will continue to be of benefit to many. Through his commitment to family and community, a shining gem he will continue to be.

Bart Giamatti, the former president of Yale University, said it well in 1987, "Be mindful of what we share and must share; not the least of which is that each of our hopes for a full and decent life depends upon others hoping the same and all of us sustaining each other's hopes . . . If there is no striving for the good life for any of us, there cannot be a good life for any of us."

On behalf of the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina, thanks to Steve so much for the good life he has given to so many. Now, may he enjoy the same, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with him always.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREECE'S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN HOSTING THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greece for its outstanding performance as host of the 2004 Olympic Games. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues and as the House Member privileged to represent Astoria, Queens, one of the